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DORIS FLEESON

Gen. Taylor: Adviser to President

*Ex-Army Chief Is Called Imaginative,
And Right Man for Right Job*

The man and the job have met in the appointment of Gen. Maxwell Taylor as military representative of President Kennedy.

The General has enormous talent, great experience and a sense of history. He will need them all, beginning with his first task of reviewing the planning being done on the Berlin situation.

He has been recalled to active service so he may act as the senior military representative of the Commander-in-Chief, both at home and abroad. This means a fresh and imaginative voice in the very many and widely scattered military councils abroad which have tended to become frozen in the absence of hot war.

With the choice of Gen. Taylor, the President has strengthened himself in the area where his own experience and interest have been most limited. Mr. Kennedy did not serve either in the House or Senate on the important committees—Armed Services, Appropriations and the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy—whose serious members are practical-

ly forced to become military experts.

The President chose political interest committees, including foreign policy, and wisely so, considering his ambition. It perhaps did not need Cuba to show him that Presidents can't afford any gaps in their knowledge, but he has with Gen. Taylor gone a long way to fortify himself as Commander-in-Chief and close an experience gap.

The White House is taking pains to reassure the service chiefs and civilian secretaries at the Pentagon that Gen. Taylor will not usurp their functions or second guess them in the conduct of their affairs. The General by being what he is will contribute to that reassurance.

His great personal dignity is reminiscent of Gen. George Marshall; it is impossible to imagine that he can be impressed by mere position or lose sight of his duty. Some men who have dealt with him at the Pentagon believe him even more suited than Gen. Marshall would have been for today's complex tasks be-

cause, they say, he has more imagination than the majestic World War II leader.

Members of Congress understand that stars can be wired for influence and don't hesitate to do it themselves when it seems to them a good idea. They tend therefore to be little impressed by titles and very much by private performance in front of their committees where the great sums taken from American taxpayers these days are for the most part allocated.

One veteran said of Gen. Taylor: "He's good, he's cautious and his word is as good as his bond. If he makes any mistake, it will be on the side of caution, but that's probably a good thing for the President."

The White House concedes that the Central Intelligence Agency will come within the range of Gen. Taylor's power of review. As the General has been head of a presidential committee studying the Cuban fiasco, he probably already has a fair idea of that embattled agency's personnel and operations.

Attorney General Kennedy served with Gen. Taylor on the Cuban study. It is reported that the good impression he received there is in large part responsible for the new presidential appointment.